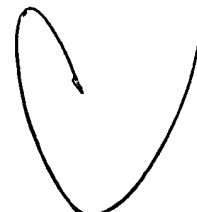What is claimed is:

14. (New)   A method of testing a document for at least one of the properties thereof, the document being provided with an electrically conductive security
5   element, an optically variable device and a metallic security strip, comprising the steps of:

capacitively coupling electrical energy from a transmitter to a receiver through the electrically conductive element to derive a first signal representative of the conductivity of the element;

10   deriving an optical signal from the optically variable device;

comparing the optical signal with a reference signal to derive a second signal;

the first and second signals establishing a main code as a function of their mathematical relationship;

15   subjecting the metallic security strip to an authenticity test to derive a third signal;

deriving from the main code and the third signal a fourth signal representative of the at least one property of the document.

20   15. (New)   The method of claim 14, wherein the electrical energy is coupled to different planes of the electrically conductive security element.

16. (New)   The method of claim 14, wherein the transmitter comprises at least two electrodes and wherein the width of the electrically conductive security
25   element is at least equal to the width of two electrodes.

17. (New)   The method of claim 14, wherein the width of the electrically conductive security element is at least equal to the adjacent transmitter and receiver.

18. (New)   The method of claim 14, wherein the electrically conductive security element comprises at least two structures of different electrical conductivity and wherein the first signal is derived from separately establishing the electrical conductivity of the two structures.

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19 (New)   The method of claim 14, wherein the property tested is the value of the document.

20. (New)   The method of claim 14, wherein the property tested is the

10   authenticity of the document.

21. (New)   The method of claim 14, wherein the property tested is the degree of wear of the document.

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